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Pers: Solis, Fernandez S.

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Panama's Negotiator

Fernandez Galileo Solis

WHEN Dr. Fernandez Galileo Solis is off duty from his post as Panama's Foreign Minister, he is variously described as jovial, easy going, pleasant and a man who laughs frequently.

When Dr. Solis has an assignment like the present one of representing Panama before the Inter-

Man in the News | American Peace Committee of the Organization of American States, the picture changes abruptly. He becomes a tough negotiator operating from a position of fervent nationalism.

Dr. Solis has been in and out of service in his country's Government for almost three decades. His current service as Foreign Minister began in 1960.

Between times, he has built up a law practice that made him a wealthy man.

Attacked Canal Treaties

Fifteen months ago Dr. Solis made a bitter attack on the United States in the United Nations. He called the Panama Canal treaties "humiliating, injurious, unjust and inequitable."

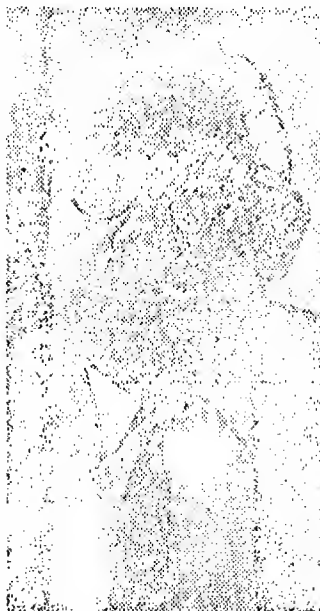
The charges were unexpected, and their tone caught United States officials off balance. Apparently they reflected the growing bitterness that exploded last week.

In more tranquil times Dr. Solis attends to his government duties and his law practice quietly and cultivated the amiable side of his nature.

He loves pumpkin pie and can cook a tasty dish of chicken or duck in the style of his native land—a practice that has left its mark on his figure. He appreciates good beef and drinks sparingly of wine and stronger beverages. He does not smoke.

Dr. Solis was born on March 16, 1900, in Matachin, Panama. He was graduated from the National University with a law degree. His first government post was that of Secretary of Government and of the Treasury in 1934.

Later President Arnulfo Arias, a close friend, named



Fervent nationalist

Dr. Solis chairman of Panama's delegation to the League of Nations.

In 1961 and 1962, Dr. Solis was Minister of Finance. He was head of his country's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in 1961 and 1962.

Dr. Solis is also a scholar of repute in the fields of economics and fiscal policy.

When duties permit, the Foreign Minister spends weekends at his farm near La Campana. There he and his wife, the former Elisa Parejas indulge the children of their son, who is a doctor.

When Dr. and Mrs. Solis travel—they have been to Europe and the United States a number of times—they often can be found in toy stores, buying gifts for their five grandsons.

Dr. Solis is not the clothes-horse one expects a diplomat to be.

"He dresses correctly, if somewhat casually," an associate said yesterday. "He is definitely not excessively concerned about his attire."